Disposal of pending cases

356. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN :
SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN :
DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE :
Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister has recently asked the judiciary to focus on wiping every tear of every waiting litigant by addressing the scourge of having the world's largest backlog of court cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the pedency of court cases in the country is highest in the world;

(d) if so, whether the efforts taken by Government to clear the backlog of pending cases have not been fruitful; and

(e) if so, the corrective steps likely to be taken to address the needs of the litigants in te country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) to (e) The Prime Minister in his speech at the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers of States and Chief Justices of High Courts held in New Delhi on 16th August, 2009, *inter-alia* mentioned that 'India has to suffer the scourge of the world's largest backlog of cases'... He further stated that 'the focus of the judicial system should be to wipe every tear of every waiting ligitant'...

Government has been making sustained efforts to facilitate disposal of pending cases. However, as per the latest available information, notwithstanding the efforts made, 53,221 cases are pending in the Supreme Court as on 30th September, 09 and 3,11,39,022 cases are pending in the High Courts and the Subordinate Courts in the country as on 30th June '09. The Government is presently considering for implementation a road-map for judicial reforms in the coutnry which aims, *inter alia*, at reducing pendency in the courts and providing quick and effective justice.

Setting up of Institutes of excellence

357. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is planning to set up four regional institutes of excellence to equip lawyers to bring them on a par with Indian Information Technology (IT) professionals who are known the world over for their competence;

(b) if so, whether these Institutes would be under the control of his Ministry, or these would be looked after like other graduation and post graduation law courses, by the Ministry of Human Resource Development; and

(c) whether the Bar Council of India and other similar bodies have given their in-principle agreement for opening of such institutes of excellence?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Pending court cases

358. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that over 3.11 crore cases are pending in various trial courts and High Courts in the country as reproted in the Times of India dated the 16th August, 2009;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the number of cases pending in Supreme Court, High Courts, trial courts, etc. as on September, 2009;

(d) whether Government has received any proposal to set alternative dispute resolution methods to reduce the burden/disposal of pending cases in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by Government so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. 3,11,39,022 cases were pending in the Supreme Court, the various High Courts and the Subordinate courts as on 30.6.09. Government has taken a number of steps to facilitate reduction in pendency of cases and at present in implementing schemes for development of infrastructure facilities for the judiciary, computerization of the district and subordinate courts and training of conciliators and mediators.

(d) to (f) Government has been encouraging the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) methods to facilitate dispute resolution outside the courts and to reduce pendency of cases in the country. Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 has been amended to provide for settlement of disputes through arbitration, conciliation, judicial settlement including settlement through Lok Adalat or through mediation. Various High Courts have set up Mediation Cells at District Level Courts and also in the High Courts. National Level Services Authority and the International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution are promoting ADR. Training programmes are also organized for training of Arbitrators, Conciliators and Mediators.

A National Consultation for Strengthening the Judiciary towards Reducing Pendency and Delays was held in New Delhi on 24-25 October, 2009, which, *inter-alia*, recognized the need for meditation and other methods of dispute resolution as on organized mainstream justice delivery mechanism.

Cases Cleared by ITAT

359. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :